

Dear Parents

As this shorter than usual term draws to a close I am sure we have just packed more into a smaller amount of time. As you read through this newsletter you will hopefully appreciate the range of activities and opportunities now on offer at the college and how much enjoyment our students derive from being involved.

As usual when the Easter holiday comes it is not a break for all year groups. In particular our Year 11 and some Year 10 students will be attending Easter School building up to their summer GCSE exams. Our students are all working incredibly hard to achieve success. Please let us know if there is anything more we can do to support them.

The college has been very successful recently in a whole range of areas. In the GCSE examinations our Humanities subjects were in the top 1% across the whole country and Maths was in the top 5%. Our 72% 5A* - C including Maths and English put us in the top two schools when comparing similar schools across the country. Students have won national writing competitions, sports teams have competed and reached numerous finals, we have attended conferences for student voice and hopefully have secured funding for the building of a new science block.

We have a growing reputation in the area for quality and will take our largest intake of 165 students in September 2016.

Thank you for your continuing support and help. May I take this opportunity to wish everyone a happy and restful Easter.

Graham R Wilson

Graham Wilson
Headteacher

Friends Request

The Friends of St George is a group of parent volunteers who help out at school events such as providing refreshments at our shows and parents evenings.



We are looking for more volunteers, so if you have some spare time to help we would be delighted to hear from you. Please contact David Walford, Deputy Headteacher.

A Message from the Governors

This is the first of a regular feature to keep you informed of the work your governors do behind the scenes at our college. We aim to tell you more about who the governors are and what responsibilities they have.

We start with one of our longest serving governors, Roger Peplow. Roger is the Local Authority appointed governor and was recently awarded a special recognition by Bishop Philip for his service. Roger has served St George for almost 20 years through some very difficult times and has been a key influence on new initiatives such as expansion and mixed intake. He is currently the chair of the curriculum committee and is also involved with admissions and performance reviews. The college is very grateful for all his efforts over the years and his dedicated service to our Catholic school despite the fact Roger is not a Catholic himself.

Roger was awarded his recognition at a special celebration on the 11th February at St John's Cathedral in Portsmouth, attended by Graham Wilson and Charles Marchetti the Chair of Governors.

Join St George on Social Media

You can now follow us on our new official Twitter feed @saintgeorgecc and Facebook page, just search for Saint George Catholic College and don't forget to like us!



Both accounts are updated regularly with all the news, information and events happening in and around the college.

Prayer

God our strength and freedom,

The vacant cross and the empty tomb justifies your promise that the love that suffers is the love that saves.

So, fill your people with joy and your Church with celebration that the world may know that your holy son, Jesus, is not a dead hero we commemorate but the living Lord we worship to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be our praise for ever.

Amen.

DIARY DATES

April

11th Start of Summer Term
20th Year 7 Parents Evening
22nd St George's Day Mass
28th Sports Presentation Evening 7^{pm}
29th Geography Eden Trip

May

3rd Year 11 Exams Begin
3rd/10th Cathedral Vists
27th Year 11 Celebration Mass.
Early closure at 12.20^{pm}
28th May - 5th June Summer Half Term

June

22nd Art & Tech Showcase 5^{pm}-7^{pm}
23rd Year 11 Celebration Day
24th Sports Day
28th Summer Arts Evening
30th Inset Day

July

4th Faith Day, Years 8 and 9
4th - 7th Year 7 Camp
6th Year 6 Induction Day/Evening
8th Year 6 It's a Knockout Day
12th Mentoring Day
15th - 1st September - Summer Break

Results Day 25th August

Some of these dates might change. Please check our website diary page.

St Vincent De Paul Group

The school has once again started a St Vincent De Paul group to help with fund-raising and helping those who are less fortunate. One of the missions the group has started is to collect for the Poitier Food Bank to help families in Southampton. Donations of canned and dry food would be appreciated. If your son or daughter is interested in getting involved ask them to see Mr Walford.



St Vincent
de Paul Society
England and Wales
Turning Concern into Action



Back in February a cast of 35 students from Years 7 to 10 performed in their first whole school production – Grease. It was brilliant to see how eager and energetic students were from the very first rehearsal. Even after a few weeks, their talents and skills were evolving in front of our very eyes.

The cast started off as St George students signing up for a school show, and finished the experience as a team. The performing arts team wanted to take this opportunity to say thank you to each and every one of you, it has been so much fun to work with you all.

As teachers, we are passionate about our subjects and this production is a wonderful example of how we can work together to give you an experience that you will never forget. Auditions for next year's whole school production will take



World Book Day

Our corridors saw some unusual characters in March as we got into the spirit of World Book Day. This year's theme was Roald Dahl. Year 7 and 8 students and staff joined in the fun with some outrageous costumes.



Breaking News ...

Our Year 9 students have been making headlines in more ways than one by participating in this year's BBC News School Report.

The annual event offers young people aged 11 to 16 the chance to be news reporters for a day.

Our team of ace reporters (**Andrew Naylor, Ben Lovett, Ben McCormack, Heyi Su, Adeen Ansari, Jemma Halliwell, India Miles, Mia Gardner, Caitlin Walford and Elizabeth Elliott**) researched and wrote articles about issues including a safe cycling initiative and the Watermark Challenge. India and Jemma investigated equal pay for women and conducted interviews with Caroline Nokes MP and Professor Cathy Pope from the University of Southampton. They were supported on News Day – 10th March – by Sally Allinson, Senior Operator at BBC South Today.

Their reports featured on the BBC News website and are available to view or read in the student area of the college website.

Space Biology

We are excited to be taking part in the 'Rocket Science Project' involving plant seeds currently on board the ISS with Astronaut Tim Peake.



After Easter, we will be sent seeds that have spent 6 months on the ISS and other seeds that have stayed on Earth so that we can compare how well they grow. We will then contribute our data to that collected by other schools around the country.

Bike Maintenance

Free cycle maintenance classes have been on offer at St George this term and have proved a great success. Supported by the charity Sustrans, the initiative is aimed at promoting safer transport as well as giving students a good understanding of how their bikes work and how to keep them running in tip top condition.

Art & Design Technology Exhibition

Towards the end of the year we will be hosting an exhibition that showcases our highly talented GCSE students in Art and Design Technology. Details of this event will be available on the college website.

Students Sing Vivaldi's Gloria

St George students and staff were among 160 singers from schools, colleges and community choirs who took part in a performance of Vivaldi's Gloria at Central Hall in Southampton in January.

The concert was part of a project to provide students with free access to high quality singing workshops from *Southampton Music Hub* and the chance to participate in a large scale event with massed choirs and orchestra.





Pictured, Deacon Roger Stone is presented with a cheque by Year 7 students, Sophie Conlon and Jacob Hermanski.

From the Chaplain

We finished our autumn term with a very successful Advent charity project. Each tutor group was invited to make up a Christmas gift bag to give to a sea-farer visiting the port of Southampton over the Christmas period. I was very proud of all our students who found the real meaning of Christmas in welcoming the stranger and bringing some Christmas joy to people thousands of miles away from their families. We were delighted to give 30 Christmas gift bags to the Apostleship of the Sea Port Chaplain as well as a cheque for £500 from our fund-raising efforts throughout Advent. We hope this is the beginning of greater cooperation with the Apostleship of the Sea, who provide spiritual care to sea-farers from all over the world. Visit www.apostleshipofthesea.org.uk.

At the beginning of our spring term, we held the second day of prayer for victims of human trafficking on the feast of St Josephine Bakhita. It was once again a privilege to spend the day in Eucharistic Adoration with the students, governors and parents.

All students attended an Ash Wednesday liturgy led by the Chaplain at the beginning of Lent. We took for our theme the parable of the Lost Son as we mark the Year of Mercy. Our newly appointed Eucharistic ministers distributed the ashes to students and staff and did so with their usual reverence and maturity.

We were glad to welcome some of our local priests to St George last week for a confession day. Thank you to Mgr. John Nelson, Fr John Cooke and Fr PJ Smith for joining us to celebrate the sacrament with our students. The chapel was busy all day which is a great sign of the positivity and optimism of our young people and therefore, the future of the church.

Please remember that we have mass every Friday in the college chapel to which parents and friends are most welcome. In week A it is at 8.05am and in week B it is at 1.25pm. Please come along if you are able.

We are on Twitter @stgchaplain and on Facebook St George Chaplaincy – please follow and “like” us for up-to-date news.

With blessings for a happy and holy Easter.
Ruth Cunio:, Chaplain

Women's World Day of Prayer

We celebrated our 3rd Women's World Day of Prayer at St George at the beginning of March. All the girls joined in a liturgy based on “Our Lady, Untier of Knots” and we all tied our “knotty problems” onto a gate and asked Our Lady to pray for us and help us untie them!

As we welcome more and more girls, our informal and relaxed way of celebrating may have to be adapted a little but it is always a privilege to spend some time just with the girls and they all entered into the activity with great enthusiasm.



Year 7 Camp in July

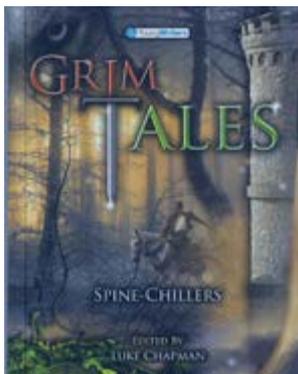
Following two successful trips to the Ferny Crofts Activity Centre in 2014 and 2015 we are delighted to be running the trip again this year from 4th to 7th July.

All of Year 7 have the opportunity to experience the camping trip which celebrates the end of their first year at St George.

Activities at the camp will include: rock climbing, archery, pioneering, orienteering, shelter building, circus skills assault course challenge and adventure hiking.

Students in Print

St George students saw their work in print in 'Grim Tales', a collection of short stories by young people. 81 of the 78 Year 9 students who entered the 'Spine Chillers' competition were included in the book.



Le nord de La France

In February we took a group of students to the north of France to sample some French culture and practise their language skills. Our first mission was to visit a supermarket where students were able to buy French food and saw how to prepare waffles! On the second day, we visited a primary school where students had the chance to practise their French. They completed a questionnaire and different games with the French Year 6 students. During the day we went to visit a French mine where students discovered how miners used to work in France. On the last day, the group made their own bread, délicieux! Also, they experienced life on a French farm. Students had a lovely experience!

Pink Day Fun

St George mums and Saints Foundation joined forces on Shrove Tuesday to cook pancakes and raised £250 for the charity Mary's Meals.

In the afternoon Cedric Soares, the Saints' Portuguese international defender, visited us to show his appreciation to the mums for their efforts. A great day was had by all. Many thanks to all who took part.





Year 7 Football

The boys have made it all the way to the Hampshire Cup Final which will be played after Easter at Aldershot Football Club Stadium against Wavell School. The team have backed this up with a fantastic 5-1 win against Wildern in the Southampton League.

Year 8 Football

Our team has made a successful start to the season with 2 wins and 2 losses so far.

Year 9 Football

Currently top of the table, the team has won 3 games and lost 1, with 1 game remaining. Their most recent result was a 6-3 home victory versus Sholing. Congratulations to **Dan Bonavia, Sam Tonks and Alex Tonks** who have represented the Hampshire Schools' team.

Girls Football

The Year 7 girls 5-a-side team have competed at the South Regional competition finishing runners up in their group.

The U15 girls football team are currently undefeated in the Southampton Football League with the most recent win of 4-2 against the strong Cantell School; lots of goals scored by **Molly Kenna and Mia Gardner**.

Year 7 Rugby

The boys have recently finished in 3rd place in the Hampshire rugby tournament at Romsey School. They have been a credit throughout the season turning up to training week in week out and helping the Year 8 team out when they have been short.

Year 8 Rugby

The team has only lost one league match all season and has been led fantastically by **Isaac Hudson**.

Year 9 Rugby

All players have been a credit to the school and worked really hard for one another.

Year 10 Rugby

The year 10 rugby team has been kept afloat by the commitment of some of our Year 9 pupils this season – following the injury of captain **Lee Collinson**.

Badminton Success

All three of the badminton teams, the under 14 boys and girls and the under 16 boys, won the Hampshire league. All three teams represented Southampton in the Hampshire tournament, with the under 14 boys finishing runners up, the under 16 boys finishing in 3rd place and the under 14 girls finishing in the top 6. This is a fantastic



achievement and the 1st time Saint George has ever won 3 badminton trophies in one season.

Cross Country

Well done to all of our cross country runners for another a strong season!

Yazmin Knight finished second in the Southampton City Schools Championships, and the Year 7 boys team of **Nolan Holloway, Xavier Jackson, John McCormack & Dylan Picken** are currently ranked first in the Southampton Schools league.



U16 Boys Basketball

The team has reached the play-off finals in the league and the Hampshire cup quarter semi-finals. The students have been a credit to the school over the last 5 years and displayed a fantastic attitude and team spirit throughout.

Girls Basketball

The under 13 and 14 girls basketball team won the Southampton Premier League for sport basketball tournament at Cantell School. Both teams won all their matches and were worthy winners against a number of Southampton schools.

U12 Netball

The U12 girls team are currently 3rd place in the Southampton Netball league.

U13 Netball

The U13 girls team have come on leaps and bounds in performance and team work. They are awaiting the final league result after some excellent wins including beating the team at the top of the league 6-5.

U14 Netball

Last term the girls finished second place in the Southampton Netball Cup and second place in the Southampton Netball league. The girls have improved massively over the year and had successful wins against some talented teams.

Handball

Well done to the U15s for finishing 4th at the Hampshire School Championships this year. Captain **Rowan Milner** was in fantastic goal-scoring form, scoring a hat-trick in one of the games.

Rowing

Congratulations to **Isaac Hudson** who has qualified to represent Hampshire in the National Indoor Rowing Championships on Friday 11th March. This is a huge achievement and Isaac has been training every Wednesday at Toynbee to prepare himself for this event.



Pictured, Matt Rice (left) with FC player Gaston Ramirez, and Malkit Loha receiving a special prize of a new Southampton FC home shirt for his outstanding work and attitude throughout the programme.

Barclays Premier League Enterprise Program YR8

With the ongoing support from Saints Foundation, St George had fifteen Year 8 students involved in their Premier League Enterprise program during the autumn term, which involved two stadium visits and ten weeks of classroom work. The program looks to engage students in Business, Maths and English using those skills to complete tasks based on Southampton Football Club. Congratulations to all.

Lynden Takes Bronze

Fifteen year old **Lynden Olowe** finished 3rd in the 400m at the South of England indoor U17 championships at Lee Valley. Lynden who trains in Pete Wareing's sprint group won both heat and semi final on the way to the final, all 3 races taking place on the same day. Lynden took bronze in a blanket finish for 2nd, 3rd and 4th places. This was Lynden's first indoor event and his time in the final of 51.57 secs smashed the club indoor age group record. He was just outside his outdoor personal best despite the tight bends of the North London indoor track.

